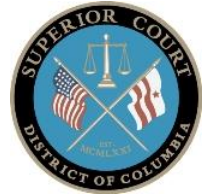




**District of Columbia Courts  
Joint Committee on Judicial Administration  
Washington, D.C. 20001**



**JOINT COMMITTEE ON JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION FOR THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS**



**AMENDED ORDER REGARDING OPERATION OF THE D.C. COURTS  
DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

(Filed—May 29, 2020)

WHEREAS, Pursuant to D.C. Code § 11-1701(b)(9), (c)(1), and (d), the Joint Committee on Judicial Administration, with the concurrence of the Chief Judge of the D.C. Court of Appeals and the Chief Judge of the D.C. Superior Court, shall have responsibility and is granted the authority over the policies and practices of the District of Columbia court system; and

WHEREAS, In instances of emergency conditions, whether natural or otherwise, that significantly disrupt access to or the operations of one or more courts or other judicial facilities of the District of Columbia or the ability of the Judiciary to operate effectively, the Joint Committee and the Chief Judges of the D.C. Court of Appeals and the D.C. Superior Court may be required to determine the extent to which court operations or judicial functions shall be modified and continue; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to D.C. Code §§ 11-745(c) and 11-947(d), the Chief Judges of the D.C. Court of Appeals and the D.C. Superior Court, in the event of a natural disaster or other emergency situation requiring the closure of the Court of Appeals or Superior Court or rendering it impracticable for the United States or District of Columbia Government or a class of litigants to comply with deadlines imposed by any Federal or District of Columbia law or rule, may enter such order or orders as may be appropriate to delay, toll, or otherwise grant relief from the time deadlines imposed by otherwise applicable laws or rules for such a period as may be appropriate for any class of cases pending or thereafter filed in the Court of Appeals and the Superior Court beyond an initial fourteen-day time period; and

WHEREAS, Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, court operations must be adjusted in order to ensure the safety and well-being of litigants, counsel, other members of the public, and Judiciary personnel;

NOW, THEREFORE THE JOINT COMMITTEE finds that because of COVID-19, emergency conditions exist that significantly disrupt access to or the operations of the D.C. Courts' facilities or the ability of the D.C. Courts to operate effectively, and as a result

THE JOINT COMMITTEE ORDERS, this 29th day of May 2020, that the Joint Committee order dated March 18, 2020 is superseded by this order; and

THE JOINT COMMITTEE FURTHER ORDERS, that pursuant to the authority conferred by D.C. Code § 11-1701, the courts shall remain operational as modified during this period of judicial emergency by the May 21, 2020 order of the Chief Judge of the D.C. Court of Appeals<sup>1</sup> and the May 14, 2020 order of the Chief Judge of the D.C. Superior Court,<sup>2</sup> and any subsequent orders, for the administration of justice while balancing the health and safety needs of litigants, court visitors, and personnel and ensuring continued access to justice; and

THE JOINT COMMITTEE FURTHER CONSENTS and ORDERS, that the Chief Judges of the D.C. Court of Appeals and the D.C. Superior Court are vested with the authority to issue additional orders extending the period of judicial emergency during which deadlines are tolled or extended for all statutory and rules-based time limits in the D.C. Code, the D.C. Rules of Appellate Procedure, and the Superior Court Rules, during this emergency situation and consistent with the best interest of the administration of justice.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION:

Chief Judge Anna Blackburne-Rigsby, D.C. Court of Appeals, Chair  
Chief Judge Robert Morin, D.C. Superior Court  
Associate Judge John Fisher, D.C. Court of Appeals  
Associate Judge Lynn Leibovitz, D.C. Superior Court  
Associate Judge Laura Cordero, D.C. Superior Court

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.dccourts.gov/sites/default/files/2020-05/DCCA\\_Order\\_Re\\_Operations\\_During\\_Coronavirus\\_Emergency\\_5\\_21\\_2020.pdf](https://www.dccourts.gov/sites/default/files/2020-05/DCCA_Order_Re_Operations_During_Coronavirus_Emergency_5_21_2020.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> English: <https://www.dccourts.gov/sites/default/files/matters-docs/General%20Order%20pdf/Amended-Order-5-14-20.pdf>.

Spanish: [https://www.dccourts.gov/sites/default/files/AmendedOrderMay14-Order\(Spanish\).pdf](https://www.dccourts.gov/sites/default/files/AmendedOrderMay14-Order(Spanish).pdf).

Amharic: [https://www.dccourts.gov/sites/default/files/Amended-Order-5-14-20-FINAL\\_AMH.pdf](https://www.dccourts.gov/sites/default/files/Amended-Order-5-14-20-FINAL_AMH.pdf).